Under-utilisation of Defence factories

3029. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the factories under the administrative control of Defence are not utilizing their full capacities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such factories and the percentage of utilisation of their capacity; and

(d) the steps taken to see that the full capacity of these factories is utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The capacity utilization in MIDHANI, GRSE, HAL, BEML and most of the Ordnance factories is full. Capacity utilization in a few Defence production units ranges from 50% to 70% during this year. The reason for Under-utilization of capacities of some of the Defence production units is mainly due to reduction in the orders placed with respect to some military hardware, ammunition, missiles, propellant charges, etc. in the current year.

The capacities in Defence factories are created, based on requirements projected by the Defence Forces from time to time. Moreover, annual requirements are given by the Defence Forces, depending on stock availability and threat perception, which varies from year to year.

(c) and (d) Details of units, where capacity utilization is less than 80% are the following:—

Sl. No.	Factory	Expected percentage Utilisation in 2005-06
1.	Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu	51.5%
2.	High Explosive Factory, Kirkee	60%
3.	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	77.5%
4.	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	55%
5.	Heavy Alloys Penetrator Project, Trichy	70%
6.	6 Units of Bharat Electronics Ltd.	50—70%
7.	Milan Missile Plant of Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	20%

The issue of order placement is being pursued regularly. Constant endeavours are made to maximize exploitation of installed plant capacities by increasing efficiency. Efforts are also made to supply products to Non-Defence sector by diversifying product range available.

Officers commissioned in Defence Services

300. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of officers commissioned in Defence Services each year;

(b) the number of other ranks who have been granted commission during the last three years, year-wise in each arm of service;

(c) the number of officers commissioned through University/College entry (campus interview) scheme during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the percentage of commissioning for other ranks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a)

Army	1639
Air Force	403
Navy	350

(b)

Year	Army	Air Force	Navy
2002	132	44	13
2003	84	37	35
2004	116	55	22

(c)

Year	Army	Air Force	Navy
2002	45	44	-
2003	58	43	-
2004	60	110	-

(d) No, Sir.

*Scheme discontinued in 1991 and revived in 2005 only.